



**Cambridge Assessment International Education**  
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**0490/23**

Paper 2

**October/November 2019**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Choose **two** of Sections A, B and C and answer **two** of the questions in each of your chosen sections.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

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This document consists of **4** printed pages.

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Choose **two** of Sections A, B and C and answer **two** of the questions in each of your chosen sections.

### Section A – Christianity

If you have chosen this section answer **all** of the parts in **two** of the questions.

- 1** (a) Describe what many Christians might do during the period of Lent. [7]
- (b) Explain the significance of Lent for Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Preparing for Easter is the most important thing a Christian can do.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]
- 2** (a) Describe how Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. [7]
- (b) Explain the importance to Christians of **two other** festivals about the life of Jesus. [7]
- (c) 'Celebrating Christmas is not just for Christians.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]
- 3** (a) Describe how Christians observe Sunday as a special day of the week. [7]
- (b) Explain the advantages of having a holy day each week. [7]
- (c) 'Attitudes to Sunday as a holy day have changed today.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]

**Section B – Islam**

If you have chosen this section answer **all** of the parts in **two** of the questions.

- 4 (a) Describe how Muslims make celebrating Lailat ul-Qadr (Night of Power) a part of Ramadan. [7]
- (b) Explain how the different rituals observed during Ramadan might strengthen faith. [7]
- (c) 'It is important that religious duties are performed by believers at all times.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]

- 5 (a) Give a description of **three** stages of Hajj (**not** including Arafat). [7]
- (b) Explain why Arafat is an important place for Muslims to visit when on Hajj. [7]
- (c) 'Hajj will always change the life of a Muslim.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]

- 6 (a) Describe what happens at Id al-Fitr. [7]
- (b) Explain the importance of the ummah in Islam. [7]
- (c) 'New clothes and presents are not an important part of religious festivals.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Islam in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]

**Section C – Judaism**

If you have chosen this section answer **all** of the parts in **two** of the questions.

- 7** (a) Describe the Western Wall. [7]
- (b) Explain why some Jews might wish to visit this historic site. [7]
- (c) 'Religious buildings cannot make people more aware of God.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]
- 8** (a) Describe how Shabbat is celebrated in the synagogue. [7]
- (b) Explain why the Shabbat meal in the home is special for Jews. [7]
- (c) 'Celebrating religious occasions is the most important way of keeping Jewish families and communities together.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]
- 9** (a) Describe Jewish teachings about helping the poor. [7]
- (b) Explain the ways in which Jews might practise these teachings today. [7]
- (c) 'Being Jewish means having more responsibilities than other members of society.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [6]
- [Total: 20]

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